

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 050530
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00
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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, GE, US

SUBJECT: US/GDR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

REF: BERLIN 5445; STATE 37358

1. DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED BERLIN ISSUE WITH MR. OTTMAR
IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL DISCUSSION OF US/GDR RELATIONS.
PROBLEM CAME UP DURING EXPLANATION OF REASONS FOR LACK
OF PROGRESS IN OFFICIAL TRADE RELATIONS. IN MAKING THE
POINTS ABOUT THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT, HUMANITARIAN CASES
AND BERLIN, VINE STRESSED THAT THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT
WISH TO DISCOURAGE OTTMAR FROM HELPING ORGANIZE THE
JOINT TRADE COMMITTEE. ON THE CONTRARY, AS NOTED IN
PARA 3 OF STATE 37358, VINE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT
ACTIVITIES BY PRIVATE BUSINESSES WERE HELPFUL TO THE
OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

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2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GDR OFFICIAL, AND AMERICAN
BUSINESSMEN AT LEIPZIG FAIR, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES EMBASSY
SHOULD ADOPT A SIMILAR POSITION. WE THINK THAT IF
ASKED, IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO COMMENT ON OVERALL
STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND TO MENTION THE PROBLEMS
RAISED BY GDR ACTIONS IN BERLIN. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT

BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD ATTEMPT TO LINK THE STATE OF
OVERALL RELATIONS TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER US BUSINESSES
SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT DECIDE TO ENTER INTO COMMERCIAL
RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. THEREFORE, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES
EMBASSY'S COMMENTS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO POINTS MADE
IN FIRST TICK OF PARA 5 OF BERLIN 5445. IF US
BUSINESSMEN PRESS FOR OPINION ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY
SHOULD ENTER INTO TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, EMBASSY
MIGHT WISH TO REAFFIRM THE US VIEW THAT SUCH DECISIONS
SHOULD IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF
COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS BUT THAT IN GENERAL, WE
BELIEVE BUSINESS TIES ARE HELPFUL TO THE OVERALL
DEVELOPMENT OF US-GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
VANCE

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